



SFUND RECORDS CTR
0639-91566

United States
Department of the Interior
Geological Survey

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Menlo Park, California 94025



SFUND RECORDS CENTER
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September 9, 1992

Mr. Daniel McGovern
Regional Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Dear Mr. McGovern:

As cruise leaders on a recent (July, 1992) U.S. Geological Survey sampling cruise to the Palos Verdes Margin, we are writing to thank you for assigning Stewart Simpson of the EPA Health and Safety Office to our team. We found Stewart to be personable, knowledgeable and extremely competent both during the work on-board R/V FARNELLA and during the on-shore preparatory efforts which consisted of visits to and recommendations regarding our laboratory operations as well as planning sessions with program managers. In short, he was a strength that helped make our research program successful.

Dealing with hazardous waste and waste-related personnel safety issues are outside of our professional experience; dealing with such materials at sea doubtless was new to Stewart. A ship is an inherently unstable, noisy and, at times, seemingly foreign and dangerous work environment. Space is a premium and small issues such as fresh water consumption, close quarters, and 24-hour-per-day operations become new and unpredictable concerns. Adjusting to such an environment requires special inter-personal skills as well as a desire to accomplish the tasks at hand. Stewart adjusted rapidly and easily to these conditions and quickly provided valuable insight, judgement, and expertise to the project. We were delighted with the spontaneity, consistency, and eagerness of his work effort.

We are certain that you are well aware of these qualities; doubtless Stewart is a valuable employee both for you and for the Environmental Protection Agency. We did want you to know, however, that working with Stewart on this project has been our pleasure. Again, our thanks.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Edwards
Brian D. Edwards
Research Geologist

Homa J. Lee
Homa J. Lee
Research Civil Engineer

cc: Terry Stumph
Brenda Bettencourt
Stewart Simpson